

November 25, 2013

The Honorable Charles Grassley
United States Senate
135 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jay Rockefeller
United States Senate
531 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
The Honorable Mike Enzi
United States Senate
379A Senate Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Nelson
United States Senate
716 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank Pallone
United States House of Representatives
237 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Glenn Thompson
United States House of Representatives
124 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 205

Dear Senators Grassley, Rockefeller, Enzi and Nelson and Representatives Pallone and Thompson:

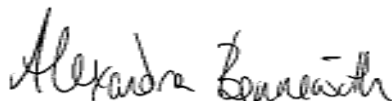
United Spinal Association is proud to support the Special Needs Trust Fairness Act of 2013, H.R. 2123/S.1672 and appreciate your bipartisan leadership in working to empower people with disabilities.

United Spinal Association is a national non-profit organization founded by paralyzed veterans in 1946 and has since provided service programs and advocacy to improve the quality of life of those across the life span living with spinal cord injuries and disorders (SCI/D) such as multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, post-polio syndrome and spina bifida. There are more than a million individuals throughout the country with SCI/D and to whom the Association's work is dedicated. United Spinal has approximately 40,000 members, 42 chapters and close to 200 support groups nationwide. Throughout its history, United Spinal Association has devoted its energies, talents and programs to improving the quality of life for these Americans and for advancing their independence. United Spinal Association is also a VA-authorized veterans service organization serving veterans with disabilities of all kinds.

The Special Needs Trust Fairness Act would remove a barrier that prevents people with disabilities from setting up their own trusts. Under current law, only parents, grandparents and legal guardians can create these trusts – forcing many who have neither a family member nor a guardian to bear the costly expense of petitioning a court to authorize the trust. These supplemental needs trusts allow individuals with disabilities to pay for daily living expenses, such as rent, clothing, and other essentials not covered by Medicaid or Social Security disability benefits.

Thank you for your leadership on correcting this important inequity for people with disabilities. United Spinal looks forward to continuing to work with you regarding the passage of the Special Needs Trust Fairness Act of 2013.

Sincerely,



Alexandra Bennewith
Vice President, Government Relations

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